REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected the claims as follows. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167968 A1 (Wilson). Claim 8 was rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view U.S. Patent No. 6,748,422 (Morin).

As an initial matter, the Examiner confirmed in a telephone conversation on June 22, 2005, that the phrase "35 U.S.C. §102(b)" in the middle of Page 2 of the Office Action, should read "35 U.S.C. §102(e)." Accordingly, a response to a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of Claims 1-7 is included herein.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), the Examiner asserts that Wilson teaches each and every element of Claim 1. Upon review of the cited reference, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. Wilson discloses a system and method for classifying a message. The method includes receiving the message, identifying in the message a distinguishing property, generating a signature using the distinguishing property and comparing the signature to a database of signatures generated by the previously classified messages. The system allows users in a network to collaborate and build up a knowledge base of known spam messages, and uses this knowledge to block spam messages. Wilson further teaches, when a spam message is first received by a mail device 100, a user reads the message and determines whether it is

spam. If the message is determined to be spam, a signature is sent to a spam-blocking server 102. When another mail device 106 receives the same message, before it is displayed to the user, spam-blocking client software 110 generates and sends one or more signatures to the spam-blocking server. The spam-blocking server then generates information which helps the mail device 106 determine whether the message is spam. This process of receiving a message as disclosed by Wilson is more clearly illustrated with reference to FIGs. 2 and 3, in which a message is received (Step 200) and then distinguishing properties are identified (Step 202).

In contrast to that which is taught by Wilson, Claim 1 includes the recitation determining if a spam blocking option is set, and if the spam blocking option is set, accessing a spam-blocking information database. The determination step recited above is not used to determine whether a message is spam, but rather determines if a spam blocking option is set before accessing the spam-blocking information database. It is only after the information data base is accessed that the determination can be made as to whether a message is spam. This limitation is neither taught nor suggested by Wilson.

Likewise, Claim 2 includes a similar recitation. Namely, Claim 2 recites determining if a spam blocking option is set, and if the spam blocking option is set, determining if the received message includes a predetermined word, said predetermined word being prestored in a spam-blocking information database, which is neither taught nor suggested by Wilson.

Moreover, although the messages disclosed by Wilson are directed to mail messages (Paragraph 16), Wilson does not teach or suggest short message service (SMS) messages as recited in Claims 1 and 2.

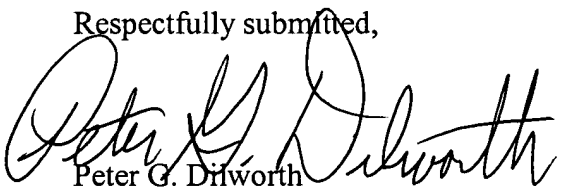
Accordingly, as Wilson does not teach or suggest each and every element of Claims 1 and 2, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of Claims 1 and 2 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Claim 3 has been amended to include the recitation when an SMS message is received, determining if a spam blocking option is set, and if the spam blocking option is set, accessing a database of previously-registered spam-blocking information to determine if the received message is an SMS spam message, which is neither taught nor suggested by Wilson. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the rejection of Claim 2, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of Claim 3 be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1-3 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 4-8, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on Claim 3. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 4-8 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-8, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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